

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

TTAB

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Opposer,

v.

UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION,

Applicant.

Opposition No.: 91/156,321

Serial No.: 78/081,731

U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
JUN 29 2 53 PM '07

OPPOSER'S FIRST NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(D)(2)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 2.122(d)(2), Opposer gives notice of its intent to rely on certain registrations owned by Opposer in the above-captioned opposition proceeding. An index of these registrations is attached, as are copies of the registrations. The copies of the registrations have been prepared and issued by the Patent and Trademark Office and show both the current status of and current title to the registrations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/29/07

Erik C. Kane

Edward T. Colbert
William M. Merone
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*Counsel for Opposer, The Chamber of
Commerce of the United States of America*

06-29-2007

U.S. Patent & TM Office Mail Rpt DL #72

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

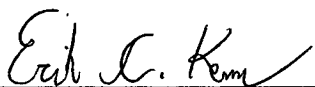
I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **OPPOSER'S FIRST NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(D)(2)** was served on the parties or counsel on the date and as indicated below:

By First-Class Mail (Postage Prepaid)

Jill M. Pietrini
Andrew Eliseev
MANATT PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP
11355 W. Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064-1614

I hereby further certify that the foregoing **OPPOSER'S FIRST NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(D)(2)** was hand delivered and filed on the date indicated below with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Date: June 29, 2007



Edward T. Colbert
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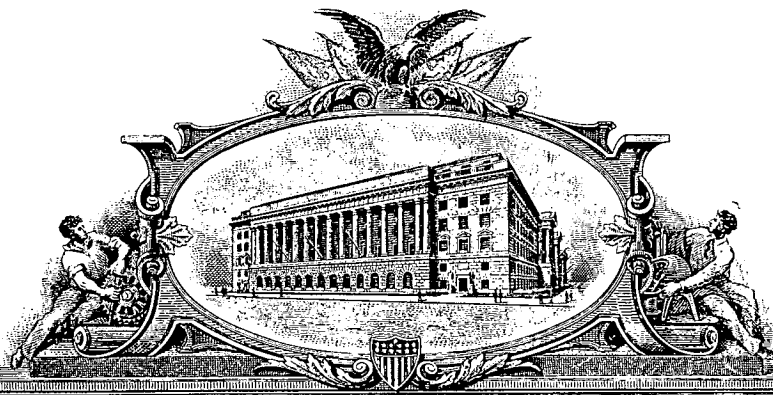
*Counsel for Opposer, The Chamber of Commerce
of the United States of America*

INDEX OF REGISTRATIONS ON WHICH OPPOSER RELIES

Copies of the Registrations Prepared and Issued by the Patent and Trademark Office

Ref. Index	Registration Number	Mark	Date of Registration
1.	1,522,157	U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	January 24, 1989
2.	1,686,865	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES	May 12, 1992
3.	1,430,627	U.S. CHAMBER	February 24, 1987
4.	2,804,476	NATIONAL CHAMBER FOUNDATION	January 13, 2004
5.	1,436,813	NATIONAL CHAMBER	April 14, 1987

7059437



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

April 03, 2007

THE ATTACHED U.S. TRADEMARK REGISTRATION 1,522,157 IS
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY WHICH IS IN FULL FORCE AND
EFFECT WITH NOTATIONS OF ALL STATUTORY ACTIONS TAKEN
THEREON AS DISCLOSED BY THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

REGISTERED FOR A TERM OF 20 YEARS FROM *January 24, 1989*

SECTION 8 & 15

AMENDMENT/CORRECTION/NEW CERT(SEC7) ISSUED

SAID RECORDS SHOW TITLE TO BE IN:

Registrant

By Authority of the

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

M. TARVER

Certifying Officer



Int. Cl.: 42

Prior U.S. Cl.: 100

Reg. No. 1,522,157

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Jan. 24, 1989

Corrected

OG Date Sep. 2, 2003

SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES, THE (D.C. COR-
PORATION)
1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLU-
SIVE RIGHT TO USE "CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE", APART FROM THE
MARK AS SHOWN.
SEC. 2(F).

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES,
NAMELY PROMOTING THE INTEREST
OF BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN, IN
CLASS 42 (U.S. CL. 100).

FIRST USE 12-4-1915; IN COMMERCE
12-4-1915.

SER. NO. 73-550,166, FILED 7-26-1985.

*In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the seal of The Patent and Trademark
Office to be affixed on Sep. 2, 2003.*

DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Int. Cl.: 42

Prior U.S. Cl.: 100

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Reg. No. 1,522,157

Registered Jan. 24, 1989

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES, THE (D.C. CORPORATION)
1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES, NAMELY
PROMOTING THE INTEREST OF BUSINESS
MEN AND WOMEN, IN CLASS 42 (U.S. CL. 100).
FIRST USE 12-4-1915; IN COMMERCE
12-4-1915.

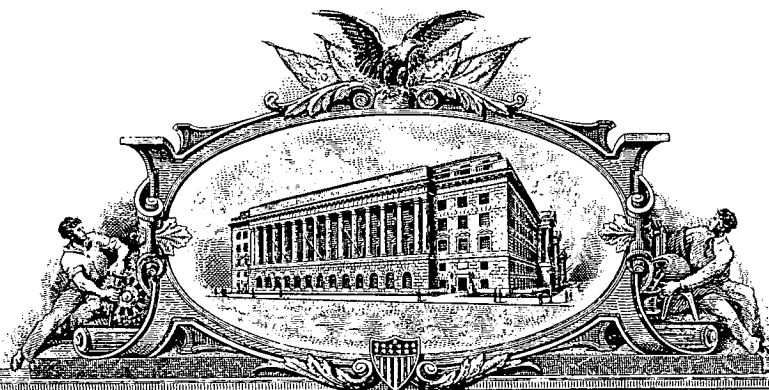
OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 552,083, 1,430,627
AND OTHERS.

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE
RIGHT TO USE "CHAMBER OF COMMERCE",
APART FROM THE MARK AS SHOWN.
SEC. 2(F).

SER. NO. 550,166, FILED 7-26-1985.

MARTIN MARKS, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

7059437



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

April 03, 2007

THE ATTACHED U.S. TRADEMARK REGISTRATION 1,686,865 IS
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY WHICH IS IN FULL FORCE AND
EFFECT WITH NOTATIONS OF ALL STATUTORY ACTIONS TAKEN
THEREON AS DISCLOSED BY THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

REGISTERED FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS FROM May 12, 1992

1st RENEWAL FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS FROM May 12, 2002

SECTION 8 & 15

SAID RECORDS SHOW TITLE TO BE IN:

Registrant

By Authority of the

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

M. TARVER

Certifying Officer



Int. Cl.: 42

Prior U.S. Cl.: 100

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Reg. No. 1,686,865

Registered May 12, 1992

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES (D.C. CORPORATION)
1615 H STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES; NAMELY,
PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF BUSINESS
MEN AND WOMEN, IN CLASS 42 (U.S. CL. 100).

FIRST USE 12-0-1915; IN COMMERCE
12-0-1915.

OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 1,430,627,
1,436,813, AND 1,522,157.

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE
RIGHT TO USE "CHAMBER OF COMMERCE",
APART FROM THE MARK AS SHOWN.
SEC. 2(F).

SER. NO. 74-082,844, FILED 7-30-1990.

DOMINICK J. SALEMI, EXAMINING ATTOR-
NEY

7059437

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

April 03, 2007

THE ATTACHED U.S. TRADEMARK REGISTRATION 1,430,627 IS
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY WHICH IS IN FULL FORCE AND
EFFECT WITH NOTATIONS OF ALL STATUTORY ACTIONS TAKEN
THEREON AS DISCLOSED BY THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

REGISTERED FOR A TERM OF 20 YEARS FROM *February 24, 1987*
1st RENEWAL FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS FROM *February 24, 2007*
SECTION 8 & 15

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By Authority of the

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

M. Tarver

M. TARVER

Certifying Officer



Int. Cl.: 42

Prior U.S. Cl.: 100

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Reg. No. 1,430,627
Registered Feb. 24, 1987

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

U.S. CHAMBER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES, THE (D.C. CORPORATION)
1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

FIRST USE 12-4-1915; IN COMMERCE
12-4-1915.

SER. NO. 461,694, FILED 1-20-1984.

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES, NAMELY
PROMOTING THE INTEREST OF BUSINESS
MEN AND WOMEN, IN CLASS 42 (U.S. CL. 100).

DAVID A. HERDMAN, EXAMINING ATTOR-
NEY

1596232

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office

April 12, 2007

THE ATTACHED U.S. TRADEMARK REGISTRATION 2,804,476 IS
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE REGISTRATION ISSUED BY
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE WHICH
REGISTRATION IS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

REGISTERED FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS FROM *January 13, 2004*
SAID RECORDS SHOW TITLE TO BE IN: *Registrant*

By Authority of the
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office


N. WILLIAMS

Certifying Officer



Int. Cl.: 35

Prior U.S. Cls.: 100, 101 and 102

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Reg. No. 2,804,476

Registered Jan. 13, 2004

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

NATIONAL CHAMBER FOUNDATION

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES (D.C. CORPORATION)
1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

OWNER OF U.S. REG. NO. 1,436,813.

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES, NAMELY, PRO-
MOTING THE INTERESTS OF BUSINESSMEN AND
BUSINESSWOMEN, IN CLASS 35 (U.S. CLS. 100, 101
AND 102).

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE
RIGHT TO USE "FOUNDATION", APART FROM
THE MARK AS SHOWN.

SER. NO. 76-487,556, FILED 2-4-2003.

FIRST USE 6-26-1967; IN COMMERCE 6-26-1967.

AISHA CLARKE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

7059437

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office

April 03, 2007

THE ATTACHED U.S. TRADEMARK REGISTRATION 1,436,813 IS
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE REGISTRATION ISSUED BY
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE WHICH
REGISTRATION IS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

REGISTERED FOR A TERM OF 20 YEARS FROM *April 14, 1987*
SAID RECORDS SHOW TITLE TO BE IN: *Registrant*

By Authority of the
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

M. Tarver

M. TARVER
Certifying Officer



Int. Cl.: 42

Prior U.S. Cl.: 100

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Reg. No. 1,436,813

Registered Apr. 14, 1987

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

NATIONAL CHAMBER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES, THE (D.C. CORPORATION)
1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20062

FIRST USE 12-4-1915; IN COMMERCE
12-4-1915.

SER. NO. 461,692, FILED 1-20-1984.

FOR: ASSOCIATION SERVICES, NAMELY
PROMOTING THE INTEREST OF BUSINESS
MEN AND WOMEN, IN CLASS 42 (U.S. CL. 100).

DOMINICK J. SALEMI, EXAMINING ATTOR-
NEY

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Opposer,

v.

UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION,

Applicant.

Opposition No.: 91/156,321

Serial No.: 78/081,731

OPPOSER'S SECOND NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 2.122(e), Opposer gives notice of its intent to rely on a certain printed publication in the above-captioned opposition proceeding. An index of this printed publication is attached, as is a copy of the relevant portions of the printed publication.

This printed publication is relevant to the above-captioned opposition proceeding because it demonstrates an instance of actual confusion where a photographer captioned a photograph of one of Opposer's employees as being employed by Applicant. Accordingly, this printed publication demonstrates that the term "U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce" is likely to be confused with Opposer's registration (*inter alia*) for "U.S. Chamber of Commerce."

RECEIVED
JUL 29 12 53
PATENT &
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/29/07

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Edward T. Colbert

William M. Merone

Erik C. Kane

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*Counsel for Opposer, The Chamber of
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **OPPOSER'S SECOND NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)** was served on the parties or counsel on the date and as indicated below:

By First-Class Mail (Postage Prepaid)

Jill M. Pietrini
Andrew Eliseev
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11355 W. Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064-1614

I hereby further certify that the foregoing **OPPOSER'S SECOND NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)** was hand delivered and filed on the date indicated below with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Date: June 29, 2007



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Erik C. Kane
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*Counsel for Opposer, The Chamber of Commerce
of the United States of America*

**INDEX OF PRINTED PUBLICATION IN WHICH PHOTOGRAPHER CONFUSED OPPOSER
FOR APPLICANT.**

Copies of Printed Publications

Ref. Index	Publication Title	Article Title	Date of Publication	Relevant Page Nos.
1.	<u>Washington Hispanic</u>	"Mary's Center celebró Gala Annual"	November 17, 2006	A16

Washington Maryland Virginia Hispanic



17 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2006

www.washingtonhispanic.com

LOTTERIA 11/15/06
Win Lotto 82-22-33-35-39-42
MultiMatch 01-10-15-26-32-40
Win for Life 04-06-07-17-28-41-20
Power Ball 11-28-33-34-43-29

Breves

■ DEPORTES



Risla celebra, Brasil
Ver Pág. 10-A

■ ACTUALIDAD



Congreso mexicano pide a EE.UU. que no deporta a Elvira
Ver Pág. 10-A

■ METRO



Alcaldes de Honduras y El Salvador visitan Washington DC
Ver Pág. 10-A

■ ACTUALIDAD



Tornados y tormentas causan cuantiosos daños
Ver Pág. 9-A

■ ENCUESTA

¿Cree que el Congreso estadounidense, con mayoría demócrata, debe frenar la orden de deportación de Elvira Arellano?

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opina

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■ SUPLEMENTOS

AutoGuía
Toyota Auris reemplaza al Corolla

CasaGuía
Los latinos gastan más en remodelar sus propiedades

SaludGuía
Bebidas energéticas, el peligro oculto

Alcalde Fenty realiza histórico nombramiento

Un hispano al frente de la educación en DC



El alcalde electo de DC, Adrian Fenty, escucha el discurso del próximo vicescalde de educación, Víctor Reinoso.

Felipe Lagos
WASHINGTON HERALD

Víctor Reinoso es la persona escogida por el alcalde electo de Washington DC, Adrian Fenty, como vicescalde de educación.

Desde el comienzo de su campaña, Fenty dijo que la educación sería uno de los temas principales de su periodo edilicio.

Por ello, la elección de un hispano para llevar las riendas de su plan de educación es un acontecimiento mayor para la comunidad latina del distrito.

Para Reinoso, su principal tarea será restaurar la confianza de la comunidad con respecto a las escuelas públicas del distrito.

"Es por esta falta de confianza que cada año hay menos alumnos en las escuelas. Hay muchas cosas que debemos hacer para recuperarlas, pero el punto final es que los padres se sientan tranquilos de que sus hijos van a tener una buena educación, lo que les permitirá obtener mejores oportunidades en el futuro", dijo Reinoso.

"Fenty y yo tenemos la misma visión acerca de la necesidad de mejorar la confianza en nuestras

■ Ver pág. 6-A

Gobernador electo cuestiona medida Gas y electricidad suben 72% en MD

Víctor Cisneros
WASHINGTON HERALD

Las millones de familias que viven en Maryland se despertaron el fin de semana pasado con una ingrata noticia: las tarifas residenciales que pagan por el gas y de la electricidad fueron aumentadas de golpe, en un 72 por ciento, con relación a los precios actuales.

El alza fue aprobada sorpresivamente por la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Maryland (PSC, por sus siglas en inglés), el viernes 10. La medida había sido solicitada al PSC por la compañía de servicios de Gas y Electricidad de Baltimore.

Se trata de una de las últimas acciones que se toman dentro de la administración del actual gobernador del Estado, Robert Ehrlich,

cuya candidatura a la reelección fue derrotada el pasado martes 7 por el postulante demócrata Martin O'Malley.

Precisamente, la medida encontró las más duras críticas por parte de O'Malley, quien dijo que los más afectados serán las familias de trabajadores, los ancianos y aquellos que tienen un ingreso fijo, así como los propietarios de pequeños negocios. Asimismo, un juez de Annapolis, la capital de Maryland, sostuvo que la PSC no tuvo en cuenta los intereses de los consumidores.

"La presión sobre el presupuesto familiar será mucho más alta, tanto en este invierno como en el próximo verano, cuando los costos de la energía eléctrica y el gas tengan que absorber este

■ Ver pág. 6-A

O.J. Simpson escribe libro y revive crimen



Cuenta cómo habría asesinado a su esposa Nicole y su amigo

Redacción
WASHINGTON HERALD

Doce años después de haber sido absuelto por los homicidios de

su ex mujer Nicole y su amigo Ron Goldman, la ex estrella del fútbol americano, O.J. Simpson, vuelve a las primeras planas periodísticas. Y lo hizo de la manera más espectacular

al anunciar en una entrevista con la cadena de televisión Fox, "cómo habría cometido" el doble asesinato.

■ Ver pág. 11-A

Buscan imitar plan de acción en MD y VA

Disminuye actividad de pandillas en Washington



Charles Ramsey, jefe de la policía de DC, agradeció al alcalde Anthony Williams y a su equipo por la considerable reducción del pandillaje en el distrito.

Mitzi Macias
WASHINGTON HERALD

Desde octubre de 2003 no se ha producido en Washington, DC, nin-

gún homicidio relacionado con pandillas, esto demuestra que el trabajo realizado por la iniciativa denominada "Gang Intervention Partnership" (GIP, por sus siglas en inglés) ha sido exitoso desde

su creación hace tres años cuando la ciudad vivió una serie de ataques relacionados con pandillas que pusieron en alerta a las

■ Ver pág. 6-A

Critican a Michael Jackson



Michael Jackson lejos de interpretar "Thriller", tuvo dificultades para llegar a las notas altas durante su presentación en el World Music Awards en Londres. La prensa lo criticó agriamente.

Ver pág. 11-B

Mary's Center celebró Gala Anual

Foto: Álvaro Ortiz



Scott Logan, de Monster Worldwide; Lydia Logan, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Kathy Padian, Building Hope; con ellos Tom Lane y su esposa Kimberly, de Children's National Medical Center.



El alcalde electo Adrian Fenty, posó con María Gómez, (c.) y Janet Ferrell con la hija Gloria, durante la Gala "Noche Tropical" el 11 de noviembre.



Andrew Blair, presidente y director de Colonial Parking recibió el Premio "Building Better Futures".



El Washington Adventist Hospital se hizo presente con Dean A. Teague, vicepresidente de operaciones, su esposa Pam, y Jeri Stocks, presidente del mismo hospital.



Stephen Smith, da su agradecimiento por el premio "Excellence Recognition", acompañado por Dan Malabonga e Ivan Snyder, miembros de la firma Powell, Goldstein, LLP.



Ricardo Urbina, US District Court Judge para el Distrito de Columbia con su esposa Coreen se divirtieron de la celebración de Mary's Center, que tuvo lugar el 11 de noviembre en el Homer Building en Washington, D.C.

Pintura Abstracta de Manuel Hernández



Manuel Hernández posó para Washington Hispanic con su hijo Pablo, quien vivirá en la ciudad de Boston.



El artista colombiano Manuel Hernández, se dirige a los invitados en la residencia de la Embajada de Colombia. La anfitriona Carolina Barco, embajadora de Colombia ante la Casa Blanca, lo observa. La exposición estará abierta para el público hasta el 30 de enero de 2007.



El artista de arte abstracto, Manuel Hernández, y la embajadora Carolina Barco, centro, posaron con Isabel Ernst (Izq.) y Bilar Hernández, esposa del pintor y Ricardo Ernst, profesor de George Washington University.

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Managua \$576	Puerto Rico \$228	Buenos Aires \$602
Veracruz \$599	Santa Cruz/La Paz \$849	Guayaquil \$547
Bogotá \$386	Cochabamba \$790	Santo Domingo \$244

5881 Leesburg Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041
703.931.6000

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation
Little River Turnpike - Route 236
Fairfax County
Highway Development Project

Find out about the proposed installation of pedestrian safety measures (signals, sidewalks, median extension, bus shelters, street lighting and pavement striping) beginning at the intersection of Route 236 and Boulevard Street and continuing to 0.02 mile west of Interstate 395.

Review the project information at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office located at 14685-Avon Parkway in Chantilly, (703) 363-2006, or toll free (888) 363-VDOT. An environmental document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion will be available for your review at the above address.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Bud Sager, P.E., Fairfax Preliminary Engineering Manager, on or before December 4, 2006. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of the date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

In compliance with Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be available.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division, 14685-Avon Parkway, Chantilly, VA 20151-1104 or at (703) 363-2341 or TDD 711.

State Project: 0230-029-124, PE-101, RW-201, M-501
Federal Project: HE03-06-5888

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20 Y 27 DE NOVIEMBRE

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Opposer,

v.

UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION,

Applicant.

Opposition No.: 91/156,321

Serial No.: 78/081,731

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OPPOSER'S THIRD NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)

Opposer The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, by and through counsel, files this Notice of Reliance pursuant to 37 CFR § 2.122(e) and TBMP § 704.08, to make record of each of the following articles printed from LEXIS/NEXIS and WESTLAW computerized libraries, each of which appeared in printed publications available to the general public in libraries or of general circulation among members of the public or that segment of the public which is relevant to this proceeding. These articles are identified at Tabs 1-15 hereto for ready reference.

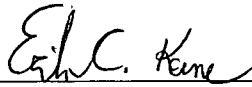
These articles will be relied on and are relevant to these proceedings to show exposure of the public to articles describing the formation, operation and/or reputation of Opposer.

1. *A Rap on the SEC's Hard Line*, Business Week Online,
URL: http://www.businessweek.com/investor/content/mar2006/pi20060309_751348.htm, March 9, 2006, Section: Investing.
2. Kara Scannell, *Moving the Market: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Calls For Changes to SEC Enforcement*, The Wall Street Journal, March 9, 2006, at p. C3.
3. Rachel L. Swarns, *Doubts Arise on Immigration Bill's Chances*, New York Times, March 23, 2007, Section: A.

4. Sue Kirchhoff, *Immigration debate squeezes some businesses; Cities, states passing rash of laws on illegal aliens*, USA Today, March 13, 2007, Final Edition, Section: MONEY at p. 1B.
5. Michael Chandler, *Making room for employees' lives; In Salt Lake City: As businesses show flexibility on child care and schedules, they're reaping rewards*, The Salt Lake Tribune, June 11, 2004 at p. C2.
6. *Mississippi trial lawyers end annual convention on coast; tb/gul/crb*, The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 12, 2004, Section: State and Regional.
7. Oscar Avila, *Panel urges immigration reform; Newcomers are called key to future*, Chicago Final Edition, June 11, 2004, Section: METRO; Zone C at p. 3.
8. Marcy Gordon, *Paulson Addresses Top Business Leader*, Associated Press Online, March 13, 2007, Section: Business News.
9. Judith Burns, *UPDATE: Grp Calls For Study Of "Punitive" SEC Enforcement*, Dowjones News Service, March 9, 2006.
10. Kevin Drawbaugh, *US consumer groups hit regulatory rollback effort*, Reuters News, March 20, 2007.
11. Amy Fagan, *Poor education found in states, Business sector grades efforts*, The Washington Times, March 1, 2007 at p. A6.
12. Greg Hitt, *House Bill Boosts Scrutiny of Foreign Deals*, The Wall Street Journal, March 1, 2007 at p. C3.
13. Andrew Parker, *SEC too harsh, warns chamber*, Financial Times, London Edition 1, March 9, 2006, Section: Companies The Americas at p. 29.
14. Dawn Peake, *Chamber gets 5-star rating*, St. Cloud Times, March 16, 2007, Section: Business at p. 3A.
15. Walter Hamilton, *U.S. chamber urges revamp of SEC, citing threat of competition Group says oversight and other changes are needed to ensure the financial markets' edge against foreign rivals*, Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2007, Section: Business.

Dated: 6/29/07

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

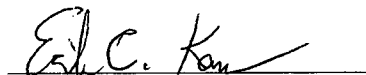
I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **OPPOSER'S THIRD NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)** was served on the parties or counsel on the date and as indicated below:

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Jill M. Pietrini
Andrew Eliseev
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11355 W. Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064-1614

I hereby further certify that the foregoing **OPPOSER'S THIRD NOTICE OF RELIANCE UNDER RULE 122(E)** was hand delivered and filed on the date indicated below with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Date: June 29, 2007



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of the United States of America*

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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Business Week Online

March 9, 2006 Thursday

SECTION: INVESTING

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: A Rap on the SEC's Hard Line;

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is charging that the agency is too punitive in its enforcement practices. But the watchdog's chairman says it has no intention of letting up

BODY:

The business backlash against the Securities & Exchange Commission for regulatory overreach intensified on Mar. 8 with the publication of a study that says the agency is too adversarial and too punitive in the way it enforces federal securities laws.

The 63-page report by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a stinging rebuke of the aggressive enforcement stance the SEC has taken in the post-Enron era. "While the SEC has made significant progress in providing more transparent guidelines to determine corporate penalties, its enforcement process is not always fair, consistently, and appropriately applied, or respectful of due process," says Thomas Donohue, the Chamber's president and CEO.

"CLEARLY EGREGIOUS CASES."

The study blasts the SEC for a range of practices, including pressuring companies to waive attorney-client privilege during investigations, expansive interpretations of securities rules, and industry-wide "sweeps" that require companies to respond to detailed requests for information.

The report calls on the five-member commission to appoint an advisory committee to examine the SEC's enforcement policies and litigation track record. The Chamber also wants the agency to be more circumspect about referring cases of securities violations to criminal prosecutors. The SEC should make such referrals only for "clearly egregious cases," the report says.

SEC Chairman Christopher Cox, while not dismissing the report, defended his agency's tough approach. "So long as a business is friendly to its investors, the SEC will be friendly to it," Cox said in a statement. "But anyone who attempts to drive a wedge between the interests of their business and the interests of investors in that business will find themselves confronted by a relentless and powerful adversary in the Securities & Exchange Commission. The SEC's Enforcement Division, under the outstanding leadership of Linda Thomsen, will therefore continue in their vigorous efforts to deter wrongdoing and punish violators."

TIME FOR EXAMINATION?

SEC insiders also blasted the Chamber's contention that the agency is on a losing streak in the courtroom. In the fiscal year ended last Sept. 30, the SEC prevailed in 84% of cases against defendants that it litigated in federal court or before an administrative law judge. So far this year, it has won nearly 90% of the time. "We're not losing; most of the time we're winning," says one staffer.

Still, Thomsen has come under pressure inside the agency as well. Last week, SEC Commissioner Paul S. Atkins floated the idea of an advisory panel to examine the enforcement division's practices. Plus, he suggested that the divi-

A Rap on the SEC's Hard Line; The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is charging that the agency is too punitive in its enforcement practices. But the watchdog's chairman says it has no intention of l

sion should spend less time pursuing corporations suspected of wrongdoing and more time cracking down on micro-cap and other securities fraudsters who prey on small investors.

URL: http://www.businessweek.com/investor/content/mar2006/pi20060309_751348.htm

LOAD-DATE: March 9, 2006

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
The Wall Street Journal

March 9, 2006 Thursday

SECTION: Pg. C3

LENGTH: 296 words

HEADLINE: Moving the Market: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Calls For Changes to SEC Enforcement

BYLINE: By Kara Scannell

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, becoming more vocal in its opposition to increased corporate oversight, is calling for changes to the Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement process.

In a report to be released today, the Chamber makes 15 recommendations to improve SEC enforcement, starting with the appointment of an advisory committee to study enforcement processes and policies.

The Chamber's report follows its 2004 court challenge to an SEC rule that changed corporate governance at mutual funds, and amid criticism by defense lawyers and lawmakers of what they perceive to be aggressive enforcement tactics following the collapse of Enron Corp. and WorldCom Inc., now part of Verizon Communications Inc.

Since then, the SEC's budget and its enforcement staff have nearly doubled. The agency also has won record fines and penalties in settlements with companies.

"The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is the advocate for millions of businesses of all sizes, undoubtedly has a valuable perspective on a variety of regulatory issues," SEC Chairman Chris Cox said in a statement.

"The SEC, which is the investor's advocate, will weigh the information in this report carefully and incorporate the facts and opinions it contains into our ongoing efforts to strengthen the enforcement of our securities laws," he stated.

In addition to calling for an advisory committee, the Chamber recommends the SEC "take steps to eliminate overlap" between the SEC and other law enforcement bodies and to clarify its policy on when a corporation should be fined.

This year, Mr. Cox united a divided commission and adopted penalty guidelines for the enforcement staff and commissioners to follow in determining whether a fine against a corporation is appropriate.

NOTES:

PUBLISHER: Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

LOAD-DATE: March 10, 2006

3/23/07 N.Y. Times A13
2007 WLNR 5493741

New York Times (NY)
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March 23, 2007

Section: A

Doubts Arise on Immigration Bill's Chances

RACHEL L. SWARNS

WASHINGTON, March 22 House lawmakers stood before the television cameras on Thursday and hailed the introduction of a new measure to secure the border and move millions of illegal immigrants toward citizenship.

But behind the scenes, there was much more uncertainty than celebration among proponents of what would be the most substantial overhaul of immigration laws in two decades.

Three months into the new Congress, immigration legislation is hitting some unexpected roadblocks. A mix of presidential politics and unforeseen fissures between Democrats and their Republican allies has stalled movement in the Senate.

Key lawmakers in both chambers seem to be moving to the right to assuage conservatives who helped derail immigration legislation last year. Now there are doubts as to whether Congress will actually send an immigration bill to President Bush this year.

Only a few months ago, Democrats and Republicans alike were predicting that immigration legislation would move relatively smoothly -- with bipartisan support -- through the new Democratic-controlled Congress. Lawmakers and advocates for immigrants remain hopeful that that can still happen, but they said the political environment had changed.

"I don't know why we were so naive to think that things were going to go so swimmingly," said Michele Waslin of the National Council of La Raza, an immigration advocacy group, who addressed concerns about the stalemate in the Senate. "I sincerely hope the process gets back on track very soon."

Democratic leaders say Republican backing is critical, both to ensure passage of a bill in the Senate and to protect newly elected moderate and conservative Democrats in the House, some of whom campaigned against legalizing illegal immigrants.

Democrats and Republicans stood side by side at the House news conference Thursday. But the possibility of a partisan rift remains palpable, particularly in the Senate.

Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican who is running for president, has distanced himself from Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat, as Mr. McCain has faced a barrage of criticism from conservatives who oppose his support of the legalization of illegal immigrants. The two men joined forces last year to help pass the Senate bill, which would have put most of the nation's illegal aliens on a path to citizenship.

Mr. Kennedy has suggested a plan on his own, but his Republican allies have yet to embrace it. Angered by Mr. Kennedy's decision to exclude him and other moderates from early negotiations, Senator Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania and an architect of last year's bill, is now leading a group of Republicans in drafting a competing set of immigration principles in consultation with the White House. A Senate vote on immigration, which was expected next month, may not take place now until May or June.

Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, said the discussions between Republican lawmakers and White House officials might result in an agreement markedly different from last year's Senate bill.

The statement of Republican principles under consideration may eliminate a path to citizenship for guest workers and require illegal immigrants to leave the country before becoming eligible for permanent residence, measures that Mr. Cornyn acknowledged might prove toxic to some Democrats.

'It could well move in a direction that will not result in a bill,' said Mr. Cornyn, who criticized last year's Senate bill as an amnesty for lawbreakers. 'It's a delicate negotiation, still very much a work in progress.'

Mr. Specter said he still supported last year's Senate bill, allowing guest workers and illegal immigrants to move toward citizenship. But he, too, said the Republican consensus position might be quite different.

As to whether it would be acceptable to Senate Democrats, Mr. Specter said, 'It's too soon to say.'

The new House bill would also require the majority of illegal immigrants to leave the country before they could move toward citizenship, a requirement opposed by many employers and union leaders.

'If the process doesn't work and it strands people outside the country, the word will get around and people will stay in a subterranean economy,' said Randel K. Johnson, a vice president of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The House bill, which is sponsored by Representatives Luis V. Gutierrez, Democrat of Illinois, and Jeff Flake, Republican of Arizona, would give illegal immigrants six years to leave the United States and re-enter legally.

The bill would also allow 400,000 to 600,000 foreigners to participate each year in a new temporary worker program. Both programs would include a path to citizenship and would begin after border security measures and other conditions were in place.

Despite his concerns, Mr. Johnson praised the bill as a step in the right direction. Mr. Kennedy said he hoped it would prod the Senate to 'forge the right kind of compromise.' Mr. Flake agreed, saying he still hoped lawmakers would send a bill to Mr. Bush by the fall.

'The fact that we're moving in the House will jump-start the Senate a little,' Mr. Flake said. 'There's still time.'

Photo: Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John McCain last year, when allied on an immigration bill. Mr. McCain is now keeping his distance. (Photo by Jamie Rose for The New York Times)

----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

COMPANY: REPUBLICAN

NEWS SUBJECT: (Crime (1CR87); Social Issues (1SO05); Legislation (1LE97); Government (1GO80); Economics & Trade (1EC26); Public Affairs (1PU31))

INDUSTRY: (Smuggling & Illegal Trade (1SM35))

REGION: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); North America (1NO39))

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OTHER INDEXING: (ARIZONA REPUBLICAN; CONGRESS; DEMOCRAT OF ILLINOIS; HOUSE; MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRAT; NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA; REPUBLICAN; REPUBLICAN OF ARIZONA; REPUBLICAN OF PENNSYLVANIA; REPUBLICAN OF TEXAS; SENATE; WHITE HOUSE) (Arlen Specter; Bush; Cornyn; Democrats; Edward M. Kennedy; Flake; Jamie Rose; Jeff Flake; John Cornyn; John McCain; Johnson; Kennedy; Key; Luis V. Gutierrez; McCain; Michele Waslin; Randel K. Johnson; Republicans; Senate; Senate Democrats; Specter)

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FOCUS - 8 of 12 DOCUMENTS

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USA TODAY

March 13, 2007 Tuesday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: MONEY; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 1578 words

HEADLINE: Immigration debate squeezes some businesses;
Cities, states passing rash of laws on illegal aliens

BYLINE: Sue Kirchhoff

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- Mayor Louis Barletta of Hazleton, Pa., issued a glowing proclamation in October recognizing "Local Chamber of Commerce Month" in his small town and praising the group's vital work on behalf of business.

This week, he's in federal court fighting the powerful U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which wants to kill a Hazleton ordinance penalizing employers who hire illegal aliens. The court's ruling on the law, which other cities have imitated, could have major repercussions for U.S. immigration policy.

"Unfortunately for some, this is more about business profiting from illegal aliens," Barletta says of the Chamber's decision to join the American Civil Liberties Union in challenging the measure, which also makes English Hazleton's official language and punishes landlords who rent to illegal immigrants.

"We're fighting for more than Hazleton now," Barletta says. "If we win, cities across the country win."

The Hazleton case exemplifies the growing tension between business and lawmakers as voters clamor for muscular action on illegal immigration, and state and local officials respond by passing a rash of laws governing hiring, public services, housing, language and use of financial services.

More than 80 cities have considered ordinances similar to Hazleton's, the ACLU says. Nearly 600 immigration-related bills were introduced in state legislatures last year, and at least 84 new laws were enacted, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Federal officials are stepping up workplace raids, and Congress soon could launch an effort at a major immigration overhaul.

Businesses are hoping Congress will break the deadlock on immigration policy this year, worried that without new uniform national standards, they will be subject to hundreds of laws that increase their legal exposure, make it tougher to attract high-skilled workers and foreign capital, or sell to the immigrant market.

To bolster political clout, business leaders are forming unlikely alliances with Hispanic, religious and civil rights groups, and labor unions. They're often battling Republican lawmakers, such as Barletta, normally their free-market allies.

"From bad law comes all variety of perversions or disruptions and distortions: people dying in the desert to try to get work, employers not talking to each other or legislators for fear of becoming an (enforcement) target or the target of the Minutemen," an anti-immigration group, says Sheridan Bailey, a founder of Arizona Employers for Immigration Reform.

Bailey, president of Phoenix steel fabricator Ironco Enterprises, has raised wages to \$20 an hour from \$15, but still can't find workers.

Immigration debate squeezes some businesses; Cities, states passing rash of laws on illegal aliens USA TODAY March 13, 2007 Tuesday

He fears that some of his employees could be in the country illegally -- given estimates that as many as 12 million undocumented immigrants are in the USA -- though he complies with workplace laws. He also faces the possibility of tougher state measures, including one requiring businesses to swear they haven't knowingly hired an illegal worker.

A growing movement

Bailey's fledgling group, which advocates a federal temporary guest-worker program and "sensible enforcement," has 50 members and 150 on an e-mail list.

There are similar efforts:

*The Texas Association of Business last month announced an expanded coalition, including the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, the Texas Employers for Immigration Reform and the American Civil Liberties Union, to fight an "onslaught of anti-immigrant legislation." The group wants lawmakers to hold off and let Congress act.

There are several immigration bills in the Texas Legislature, including proposals to charge a fee on "remittance" money sent to immigrants' home countries and to deny benefits to illegal immigrants' children who are born in the USA.

Texas Democratic Sen. Royce West, who introduced the remittance bill, resents being lumped into the category of immigrant-basher. His measure would use proceeds from the fee to fund health care for the indigent, including undocumented aliens.

"You can only raise so much money from the traditional sources; you've got to find other sources that are fair to everyone," West says. His bill doesn't single out immigrants, but the fast-growing remittance sector is fueled by immigrant dollars.

*Florida TaxWatch last month organized an immigration and visa policy summit of Realtors, the hospitality industry, farm interests, contractors and others. They are now forming a coalition to address issues from workers to foreign investment and visa policy. Restrictions on foreign travel or investment are of high interest in Florida, where 15% of housing is owned by foreign nationals.

"Most of what we're hearing about the immigration issue is enforcement, enforcement, enforcement. That's always the easiest way to deal with issues; it's not always the best," says Roy Bedard, president of RRB Systems International, a member of the group's steering committee. Bedard, whose firm trains police officials, wants "comprehensive, not one-sided reform."

*At the federal level, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Council of La Raza, Service Employees International Union and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, among others, are seeking an immigration bill that includes a path to permanent residence for undocumented workers, tougher enforcement and adequate visas for foreign workers.

Some back tougher policies

While the business community is vocal, it's hardly monolithic. Some say their colleagues have been too willing to turn a blind eye to abuses of immigration law. A number of recent high-profile immigration raids have turned up widespread abuses of immigrant labor and guilty pleas.

Rod Gallagher, president of Virginia School Equipment in Lynchburg, Va., has signed on to a campaign by advocacy group Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), under which businesses voluntarily certify the legal status of their workers.

In return for checking employee information against a special federal database and weeding out workers whose documents don't pan out, Gallagher can call his 14-person firm FAIR-approved.

"We want to take a stance and say who we are, and try to differentiate ourselves and use it as a selling feature," says Gallagher, whose company designs and installs gyms, auditoriums and classrooms. His workers range from carpenters to designers, and he says he's at a disadvantage compared with firms that hire lower-cost immigrant labor.

FAIR hopes businesses will use its seal of approval as a selling point, comparing it with efforts to build a market for such specialty goods as organic food.

"The perpetrator of illegal immigration in this country is the U.S. business community," says Susan Tully, organizing the campaign for FAIR. "Twenty years ago, it was not OK to hire illegal aliens. ... Now, blatantly, U.S. businessmen not only hire them, but they encourage it."

Immigration debate squeezes some businesses; Cities, states passing rash of laws on illegal aliens USA TODAY March 13, 2007 Tuesday

Immigrants in labor force

How important is the immigration issue to business?

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez told a Senate hearing recently that immigrants account for 15% of the U.S. workforce and about half of labor-force growth since 1996. Opponents of immigration cite millions of low-skilled workers coming into the country illegally. But in high-skilled professions such as computers, mathematics, engineering, architecture and science, immigrants account for more than 40% of workers with Ph.D.s, Gutierrez noted.

Last year, more than 30 states passed legislation dealing with issues related to illegal immigration.

The bulk of proposals introduced in legislatures deal with such things as requiring documentation to get a driver's license, state job or service; making English the official language; setting tougher penalties for companies that knowingly hire illegal workers; and cracking down on hiring centers for day laborers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Still, in a USA/TODAY Gallup Poll conducted March 2-4, three-fourths of respondents said the federal government hadn't gone far enough on immigration, and 69% said states hadn't done enough.

Businesses disagree, saying the efforts are inflating costs and creating confusion. One example is the HR Initiative for a Legal Workforce, a new coalition of human resource organizations that will lobby Congress. The group, advertising in Capitol Hill newspapers, is pressing for a simple and workable employee-verification system.

Another catalyst is the proliferation of state laws. The number of new state mandates aimed at preventing the hiring of illegal workers is "causing great confusion for employers with sites in multiple states," says Lynn Shotwell, executive director of the American Council on International Personnel.

The importance of the issue extends far beyond the workforce. The 41 million Hispanics in the USA are a major market. Hispanic spending power will hit \$863 billion in 2007, an 8% rise from 2006, according to the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth.

English-only mandates, taxes on services such as remittances and other measures send a message that immigrants are not welcome customers, business owners say.

"It's a way of legislating a very exclusionary ... attitude to business," says Tricia Juhn, director of the Financial Services Practice at InfoAmericas, a research firm that specializes in Hispanic and Latin American markets. "It makes it sound like we're doing a favor to these immigrants by letting them bank with us -- that's really not the case."

Contributing: Kathy Kiely

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, B/W, Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (CHART)

GRAPHIC, B/W, Adrienne Lewis, USA TODAY, Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (MAP)

PHOTO, Color, Christine Keith, The Arizona Republic for USA TODAY

PHOTO, Color, Rick Smith, AP

PHOTO, B/W, Kristen Mullen, The Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Citizens' Voice via AP

LOAD-DATE: March 13, 2007

1 of 2 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2004 The Salt Lake Tribune
Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

June 11, 2004, Friday

SECTION: Friday; Pg. C2

LENGTH: 513 words

HEADLINE: Making room for employees' lives; In Salt Lake City: As businesses show flexibility on child care and schedules, they're reaping rewards

BYLINE: Michael Chandler , The Salt Lake Tribune

BODY:

When Heidi Willis, owner of Creative Expressions, a Salt Lake City advertising business, found that her employees -- many of them single mothers -- kept missing work, she did something that people warned her not to: She let her employees bring their children to work.

She opened a day-care center on site, and ran it cooperatively. She found that employees could solve their expensive child-care problems, and she could solve her expensive staffing problem.

"I found that absenteeism went down to next to nothing."

Then she went farther and allowed employees to set their own hours according to their families' schedules, and if there was a Halloween parade at school, she encouraged them to go. By making her workplace more flexible for working parents, she also increased productivity and worker satisfaction.

Willis shared her experiences at an event organized Thursday by the Business Women's Forum of the Salt Lake Chamber. Salt Lake City is one of eight cities to be included in a national initiative to highlight the importance of flexibility in the workplace.

The chamber has identified flexibility as a key issue for maintaining business competitiveness.

As baby boomers head toward retirement age, "flexibility is going to help businesses meet a critical work-force need," says Beth Buehlmann, executive director of the Center for Workforce Preparation, a nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Workplace flexibility can include anything from enabling employees to take breaks when they want to during the day, to letting them decide their own schedules, or even work at home if it's more convenient.

Other Salt Lake City businesses are finding ways to use flexibility to recruit new employees. ARUP Blood Services was having trouble retaining staff for its blood testing labs, which stay open 24 hours a day. The company finally initiated a job-sharing system, where employees partner up and alternate workweeks. One employee works 10-hour shifts for seven days, then switches off the next week.

"Every other week is a vacation," says Linda Ivie, a recruiter at ARUP. This was a huge incentive for new recruits and the company's turnover rate dropped significantly.

The key is letting employees figure out what works best for them, some employers say.

"Let individuals have control of the workplace, and they will find their own balance," says Pollyanna Pixton, president of Evolutionary Systems, a business consulting firm. Pixton says employees and employers should work together to determine what needs to be accomplished, then employees should have the freedom to figure out the best way to get the work done.

Making room for employees' lives; In Salt Lake City: As businesses show flexibility on child care and schedules, they're reaping rewards Salt Lake Tribune (Utah) June 11, 2004, Friday

"The idea that if you're not there with your cup of coffee at 8 a.m., you're not productive," doesn't make sense to Lizzie Barlow, a newcomer to the business world who works in business development for the Salt Lake Chamber.

"I'm different," Barlow says. "I'm from a different generation . . . I know I could be more productive, if I could make my own pattern."

mchandler@sltrib.com

LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2004

1 of 3 DOCUMENTS

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

June 12, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 346 words

HEADLINE: Mississippi trial lawyers end annual convention on coast; tb/gul/crb

DATELINE: BILOXI, Miss.

BODY:

Civil justice reform was a hot topic of discussion at this year's Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association convention.

About 200 trial lawyers attended the annual event this weekend. The four-day convention concluded Saturday at the Grand Casino Biloxi's Bayview Convention Center.

Biloxi lawyer Will Denton was one of the speakers. He praised Mississippi trial lawyers Friday for fighting tort reform and encouraged them to continue helping consumers who suffer at the hands of big business.

Denton said trial lawyers have been robbed of their credibility by big business and insurance companies. He said trial lawyers must work together to help people who need it.

Lawmakers meeting in special session earlier this month approved a bill that makes several changes to the civil justice system, including capping pain-and-suffering damage awards at \$1 million in general lawsuits and \$500,000 in medical malpractice cases.

Gov. Haley Barbour has until June 25 to sign the bill, which will become law Sept. 1.

For Ramel Cotton of Jackson, who began practicing law four years ago, Denton's speech was informative and inspiring. "He reiterated the importance of the work we do to protect consumers from products that cause catastrophic injuries," Cotton said.

Bobby Dallas, a member of the trial lawyers association, said the much-debated lawsuit reform passed in the just-concluded special session will hurt middle-income citizens, children, the disabled and stay-at-home mothers and fathers.

"Caps don't stop frivolous lawsuits," Dallas said.

Among the groups pushing for lawsuit limits was the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which last year denounced Mississippi as a "judicial hellhole" because of large jury verdicts.

Supporters say limiting lawsuits could help hold the line on insurance rates, including those for medical malpractice coverage. They also say the lawsuit limits will help businesses and doctors predict how much they might have to pay out if they lose lawsuits.

Information from: The Sun Herald, <http://www.sunherald.com>

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2004

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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Chicago Tribune

June 11, 2004 Friday
Chicago Final Edition

SECTION: METRO ; ZONE C; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 660 words

HEADLINE: Panel urges immigration reform;
Newcomers are called key to future

BYLINE: By Oscar Avila, Tribune staff reporter.

BODY:

Taking a run at fixing an immigration system nearly everybody agrees is broken, a high-profile panel urged the federal government Thursday to legalize most of the 9 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

The bipartisan panel, headed by former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, also called for a plan to help industries bring in foreign workers on a temporary basis if they lack U.S.-born employees.

The task force, convened by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, said the reforms are necessary to keep business humming while dismantling an underground economy of illegal immigrants.

Task force members also said the United States needed to screen potential terrorists more effectively while helping law-abiding immigrants assimilate into U.S. society .

"When you're talking about immigration, you're talking about our future in this nation and particularly in the Midwest," said Edgar, one of the task force's co-chairs. "The status quo is not working."

The group, which included former Illinois Atty. Gen. Roland Burris, Episcopal Bishop William Persell and former Bank One Chairman Verne Istock, focused on the Midwest. Immigrant populations in nine of the region's 12 states grew more quickly than the national average in the 1990s.

The Midwest's growing stature as an immigrant gateway will be highlighted next week when Mexican President Vicente Fox visits Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Illinois has the nation's fifth-largest immigrant population, about 1.5 million residents, according to the 2000 census. Immigration authorities estimate that 400,000 undocumented immigrants live in the state.

In recent years, corporate interests such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have forged an unlikely alliance with labor unions and liberal immigrant advocacy groups, all of whom have a stake in an efficient flow of immigrant workers.

"Immigration is not a social issue, but it is a very important economic issue," said D. Cameron Findlay, executive vice president and general counsel for Aon Corp., one of several business executives on the panel.

Panelists heard from activists critical of a 1986 amnesty for many undocumented immigrants, which they said only encouraged more foreigners to enter the country illegally.

Task force members acknowledged the concern that a new wave of legalization would create the same problem. But the panelists concluded that stricter enforcement of immigration law after the proposed legalization, including penalties against employers who hire undocumented workers, would reduce illegal immigration in the future.

Panel urges immigration reform; Newcomers are called key to future Chicago Tribune June 11, 2004 Friday

"There needs to be a stick with the carrot when people try to cut corners," said co-chair Doris Meissner, former commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The task force said immigration enforcement has become more difficult after the 2001 terrorist attacks, noting that "security risks at U.S. borders cannot be completely eliminated without causing significant damage to vital interests and values."

Panelists said U.S. authorities were not true to the nation's values when they targeted immigrants based on national origin. They criticized the "special registration" program that required men from 24 predominantly Muslim countries and North Korea to be photographed, fingerprinted and questioned at U.S. government offices.

Surveys show that most Americans favor reduced immigration, with some critics saying there is a disconnect between the political establishment that favors immigration and the average U.S. citizen who must cope with the social needs created by the newcomers.

Edgar acknowledged that the topic is such a divisive one that any major immigration reform must wait until after this fall's election. He said the report is intended to help establish a consensus that the system is broken.

"Politically, this is not going to be an easy issue," said Edgar, a Republican. "But for those who think immigration is a dangerous thing for our nation, I think they are sorely mistaken."

LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2004

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Associated Press Online

March 13, 2007 Tuesday 1:26 PM GMT

SECTION: BUSINESS NEWS

LENGTH: 571 words

HEADLINE: Paulson Addresses Top Business Leaders

BYLINE: By MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Tuesday a balance must be struck between ensuring the competitiveness of financial markets and protecting investors.

Paulson addressed a gathering of top business leaders and former government officials. The conference followed months of campaigning by American business for an easing of laws and regulations established after the Enron debacle.

Paulson said the laws and regulations have been, "extensive and significant, so it is quite naturally taking time for companies to understand, process and implement the new rules and requirements."

However, he said, "the principles behind them have been positive, as have many of the results."

Panelists included billionaire investor Warren Buffett, General Electric Co. Chairman Jeffrey Immelt, brokerage founder and CEO Charles Schwab, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Paulson and Christopher Cox, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, are serving as moderators.

In spite of the complaints, however, others warn that easing regulations may not be in the best interests of investors.

The conference comes as an array of companies and business leaders have claimed that the wave of corporate scandals in recent years led to overly burdensome and costly rules that have hurt the competitiveness of U.S. financial markets.

The conference likely will yield some proposals that can be acted on immediately, Paulson said, others will lay groundwork for possible longer-term action.

"There will be things we at Treasury, working with the regulatory agencies, will do in the near term and some other actions over a longer timeframe to address these challenges to our competitiveness," Paulson said in his opening remarks.

In November, a committee of business, legal and academic figures offered proposals to claw back corporate governance rules, class-action lawsuits against companies and auditors, and criminal prosecution of companies by the government.

A second group, formed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, issued a report this week calling for "quick and decisive adjustments in the U.S. legal and regulatory framework." Among its key recommendations: Public companies should stop issuing quarterly earnings guidance and policymakers should consider proposals to reduce the liability of accounting firms in litigation over company audits.

Paulson Addresses Top Business Leaders Associated Press Online March 13, 2007 Tuesday 1:26 PM GMT

A target of the business campaign is the corporate financial-controls provision of the Sarbanes-Oxley anti-fraud law, enacted in 2002 at the height of the scandals that engulfed Enron Corp., WorldCom Inc. and other big corporations.

Some experts and regulators are warning against dismantling the scandal-inspired governance and financial requirements.

"A key component of investor confidence is a regulatory framework that provides strong investor protection," said Joseph Borg, head of the organization representing securities regulators in the 50 states.

"Some on Wall Street and in Washington are calling for weakening this framework," Borg said. "With record profits on Wall Street and the echoes of Enron still reverberating, rolling back a system of regulation that has vigorously protected U.S. investors for decades could have profound and costly consequences if it went too far."

On the Net:

Treasury Department: <http://www.ustreas.gov>

Securities and Exchange Commission: <http://www.sec.gov>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.USChamber.com>

LOAD-DATE: March 14, 2007

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DOW JONES
Newsires
Dow Jones News Service

March 9, 2006 Thursday 4:23 PM GMT

LENGTH: 804 words

HEADLINE: UPDATE: Grp Calls For Study Of 'Punitive' SEC Enforcement

BODY:

(Updated, adds comment from SEC Commissioner Glassman in 13th paragraph.)

By Judith Burns
Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

WASHINGTON (Dow Jones)--A leading business group is calling for the Securities and Exchange Commission to study whether its enforcement process and practices are too harsh, and to make changes where appropriate.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than three million companies, complains the SEC's long-vaunted enforcement program is pursuing some cases it shouldn't and has "taken on an increasingly punitive tone."

The business group issued a report Thursday containing more than a dozen recommendations on SEC enforcement, which it says seems "more adversarial and less objective" than in the past, and focused on imposing stiff fines on companies and individuals.

Basic legal protections are being threatened as companies under SEC investigation feel "intense pressure" to waive attorney-client privilege and work-product protections, the report states. The chamber said executives feel if they resist, they won't receive credit for cooperating with investigators, and it urged the SEC to clarify that such waivers aren't required for companies to be deemed to be cooperative.

Lack of cooperation can be costly: Banc of America Securities was fined \$10 million in 2004 for failing to produce documents quickly to regulators, an action then-SEC enforcement director Stephen Cutler said sprang entirely from its "uncooperative conduct" during the probe, according to the report. The chamber called for an end to such penalties.

SEC officials say they cannot ratchet up fines for lack of cooperation, but may lower them to reward cooperation. They also say it isn't their practice to demand that those under investigation waive attorney-client privileges.

The report cites SEC losses against the Rockies Fund, Siebel Systems (SEBL), now part of Oracle Corp. (ORCL), and others, as evidence that it is bringing cases it shouldn't. It recommends the SEC appoint an advisory committee to study the fairness and efficiency of its enforcement process and that the commission itself "review the reasons for a wave of recent litigation losses."

SEC officials dispute claims of mounting legal losses, saying the agency won 71% of its trials in fiscal 2004, and 75% in fiscal 2006. The agency has a perfect record for the current fiscal year, winning six trials since Oct. 1, 2006. The SEC counts a case as a victory if it wins some but not all of its claims.

UPDATE: Grp Calls For Study Of 'Punitive' SEC Enforcement Dow Jones News Service March 9, 2006 Thursday

The chamber's report comes at a time when the SEC's enforcement division is under fire for issuing subpoenas to reporters in connection with a probe of potential market manipulation, an action put on hold by SEC Chairman Christopher Cox pending development of a formal policy on such subpoenas.

Cox said he looks forward to reviewing the chamber's recommendations.

"The SEC, which is the investor's advocate, will weigh the information in this report carefully and incorporate the facts and opinions it contains into our ongoing efforts to strengthen the enforcement of our securities laws," Cox said in a prepared statement.

SEC Commissioner Cynthia Glassman said she hasn't read the report yet, but isn't opposed to a review of SEC enforcement. She told reporters Thursday she thinks it's "a good idea" for the agency to periodically review its processes and rules.

For its part, the chamber said its report should not be viewed as a call for weaker enforcement or a defense of wrongdoing. David Chavern, the chamber's chief of staff, said tough enforcement was to be expected amid corporate scandals, but seems to have overreached of late.

"There is such a thing as having too much," Chavern said.

Congress didn't give the SEC authority to impose fines until 1990, and only provided sharp increases in funding for the agency in recent years. The SEC's enforcement staff pursued about 950 investigations in 2004, collecting more than \$2 billion of penalties and disgorgement, up from 485 investigations and \$522 million collected in 2001.

Chavern called the report "a very responsible piece of work" and said he hopes the SEC "takes it as that."

The report, begun last year, was conducted by David Andrews, a retired PepsiCo Inc. (PEP) executive, and Bruce Hiler, a partner at the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft (CWT.XX), and former SEC enforcement division associate director. The chamber said it is based on interviews with about three dozen corporate executives, academics, and lawyers, including some former SEC enforcement staffers. Chavern said the chamber doesn't plan to identify those it interviewed because "we wanted to get the best, most open information possible" from them.

-By Judith Burns, Dow Jones Newswires; 202-862-6692; Judith.Burns@dowjones.com [03-09-06 1123ET]

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LOAD-DATE: March 10, 2006

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Reuters News

March 20, 2007 Tuesday 11:58 PM GMT

LENGTH: 459 words

HEADLINE: US consumer groups hit regulatory rollback effort

BYLINE: By Kevin Drawbaugh

DATELINE: March 20, 2007

BODY:

WASHINGTON, March 20 (Reuters) - Consumer groups told members of Congress on Tuesday that demands from businesses to ease post-Enron regulations threaten to undermine U.S. markets, not make them more competitive.

"The war that is being waged on investor protections is based on the fallacy that U.S. markets are losing their competitive edge and that the U.S. enforcement and regulatory environment is a key reason why. Nothing could be further from the truth," said the groups in a letter obtained by Reuters.

The Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Consumer Action and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group addressed their letter to senior members of the Senate and House of Representatives who oversee financial markets.

"We urge you to hold a hearing in the very near future to showcase the investor viewpoint on these issues," said the letter sent to Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank and the top Republicans on those two panels.

The consumer groups were responding to a recent series of studies and high-profile events arranged by business interests attempting to focus public attention on corporations' broad dissatisfaction with government regulatory oversight and the legal system.

Corporate leaders have been trying to build support for claims that excessive regulation and litigation are making American capital markets less competitive internationally.

A week ago, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson hosted a conference at Georgetown University where several major chief executive officers -- including General Electric Co.'s Jeffrey Immelt and New York Stock Exchange parent NYSE Group Inc.'s John Thain -- complained about regulatory burdens and lawsuits.

Similar sentiments were expressed in recent reports from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other groups. They placed much of the blame on 2002's post-Enron Sarbanes-Oxley reforms for a perceived decline in the competitiveness of U.S. capital markets against rivals in Europe and Asia.

The letter argued that Sarbanes-Oxley has strengthened U.S. markets and that investors enjoy fewer protections in overseas markets such as London. It also said lawsuits against corporate auditors have declined sharply and that America's unmatched investor protections give it an edge.

US consumer groups hit regulatory rollback effort Reuters News March 20, 2007 Tuesday

"If policy makers were to follow their recommendations, we would not only make our markets less safe, we would ultimately make them less competitive," said the letter signed by Consumer Federation Director of Investor Protection Barbara Roper, Consumer Action Executive Director Kenneth McEldowney; Consumers Union Senior Counsel Sally Greenberg; and U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski.

NOTES: MARKETS-COMPETITIVENESS/LANGEN|ABN|E|RBN|U|D|RNP|DNP|PCO;
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LOAD-DATE: March 21, 2007

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The Washington Times

March 1, 2007 Thursday

SECTION: NATION; A06

LENGTH: 500 words

HEADLINE: Poor education found in states;
Business sector grades efforts

BYLINE: By Amy Fagan, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce leaders yesterday said states are doing a poor job educating America's children for the future, citing a new report by the chamber that graded each state in areas from academic achievement and teacher quality to how wisely a state is spending its education dollars.

"This is an effort to do what is responsible for America's youth," said chamber President Thomas J. Donohue. "Our study has found that when it comes to education, the states aren't making the grade."

The study, conducted with help from the Center for American Progress (CAP) and the American Enterprise Institute, compiled and analyzed data from other research, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and a national survey of teachers. States received letter grades in nine categories but no overall rankings.

Arthur Rothkopf, senior vice president of the chamber, said the report identifies "leaders and laggards."

Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Hampshire topped the list of 10 states that received A's for academic achievement. New Mexico, Mississippi and the District took the three lowest slots among the 10 that received F's. Grades were based on an analysis of the 2005 NAEP, a test given to a sampling of students nationwide.

John Podesta, president and chief executive officer of CAP, pointed out variations. He said Massachusetts, the top state for academic achievement, showed only 44 percent of fourth-graders proficient in reading and 49 percent proficient in math numbers he called "unconscionable."

The study also examined whether states presented accurate information or overstated student performance. Massachusetts, Maine, South Carolina, Wyoming and Missouri received A's for honesty. Oklahoma and Tennessee received F's, and 15 other states that were deemed to be sugarcoating performance got D's.

Most states received A's or B's on teacher quality. Six received D's, and Rhode Island got an F. The scores were based largely on whether states test teachers in both basic and subject-specific areas, and whether they recruit and test non-teaching professionals.

In a comparison of education spending with student performance, 10 states including Utah, North Carolina and Washington received A's. The District and nine states including Hawaii and New Mexico failed.

The report was issued as the National Governors Association ended its winter meeting. Governors considered a federal framework to help states, institutions of higher learning and the private sector work together on innovations to improve proficiency in math and science, increase the number of science and engineering students, among other goals.

The chamber yesterday suggested higher starting salaries for teachers, removing ineffective educators and giving principals more control over budget and personnel. Chamber officials said the business community can give schools examples of management improvements, data collection and innovation.

Poor education found in states; Business sector grades efforts The Washington Times March 1, 2007 Thursday

"We want the business community at the table at every state," Mr. Rothkopf said.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
The Wall Street Journal

March 1, 2007 Thursday

SECTION: LEADING THE NEWS; Pg. C3

LENGTH: 584 words

HEADLINE: House Bill Boosts Scrutiny of Foreign Deals

BYLINE: By Greg Hitt

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- The House approved legislation that would strengthen U.S. scrutiny of overseas-led business deals, underscoring lawmakers' angst over the frictions caused by the international-investment boom.

The measure, approved yesterday on a vote of 423-0, would require the administration to conduct an extended, 45-day investigation of most deals involving foreign governments, give intelligence agencies a formal role in the review process and increase disclosure to Congress, among other things.

The bipartisan legislation was written in consultation with the White House, which has tried to balance the dual goals of protecting national security and ensuring an open investment environment. While raising concern about some details of the bill, the White House moved ahead of the vote to welcome the House efforts to "strengthen" the investment-review process.

The depth of the vote underscores the broader difficulties ahead for the White House, which is striving to put the president's trade and economic agenda back on track. Voted in on a tide of antiglobalization sentiment, many lawmakers are concerned that U.S. workers and companies aren't getting a fair shake in the global marketplace.

The vote is sure to increase pressure on the Senate to take up the issue, and Senate Banking Chairman Chris Dodd of Connecticut said he intends to act "in the coming weeks." Mr. Dodd vowed to embrace a "balanced approach" that carves a greater role for the intelligence community in investment reviews and gives Congress "a far greater oversight role to prevent the recurrence of Dubai Ports World episodes."

DP World -- which is owned by the government of Dubai, a Persian Gulf emirate -- touched off a political furor on Capitol Hill last year after moving to acquire control of several U.S. ports operations as part of a broader deal. The Bush administration approved the ports deal following a standard, 30-day review, but lawmakers alleged administration officials had failed to grasp the post-Sept. 11 danger of giving an Arab firm access to American ports, where lax security is a concern. Amid the uproar, DP World agreed to sell off its U.S. holdings.

House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank of Massachusetts said yesterday's measure would reassure investors that the U.S. remains a secure place to do business by making clear the rules controlling U.S. scrutiny of foreign deals.

House Bill Boosts Scrutiny of Foreign Deals The Wall Street Journal March 1, 2007 Thursday

At the center of the issue is the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., or CFIUS, a secretive panel that reviews the national-security implications of overseas deals. Twelve government agencies are represented on CFIUS, which is led by the Treasury Department.

The House bill would require greater disclosure to Congress of CFIUS actions and senior-level sign-off within the government on certain deals. It would also codify the administration's authority to reopen, and even unwind, deals after they have been cleared by the U.S. government. Moving on its own, the administration recently began to using such a limit as a way to enforce other conditions that the government has imposed on transactions.

The U.S. business community, by and large, has swung behind the House bill. This week, a broad business coalition, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, circulated a letter on Capitol Hill urging passage, saying the bill would "enhance confidence" in the CFIUS process.

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Financial Times (London, England)

March 9, 2006 Thursday
London Edition 1

SECTION: COMPANIES THE AMERICAS; Pg. 29

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: SEC too harsh, warns chamber

BYLINE: By ANDREW PARKER

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

By Andrew Parker in New York

The chief US financial regulator must consider changes to the way it investigates and punishes companies because the regime has become harsh and unfair, according to the most powerful US business group. The US Chamber of Commerce today publishes a report that says the tough approach of the Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement division risks harming the economy. The report claims corporate America is suffering from a "perfect prosecutorial storm" because too many alleged violations of the securities laws by companies and individuals are turned into criminal cases. The SEC deals with civil cases, but has in recent years forged a close working relationship with the US Justice department, which brings criminal charges against companies and individuals.

"The threat of harsh, punitive sanctions for violations based on complex and unclear legal and accounting principles, and the overcriminalisation of securities law violations, can stifle creativity and legitimate risktaking and create (an) uncertain environment in which to do business," says the report. The SEC declined to comment on the report, but said effective investor protection required vigorous enforcement of the securities laws. The chamber has been the most vocal critic of the tough enforcement approach taken by William Donaldson, the former SEC chairman who dealt with the accounting frauds at Enron and WorldCom. The report says companies accused of wrongdoing are under increasing pressure to reach rapid settlements, even when they may have good grounds to challenge any charges. It claims SEC and Justice department guidelines on how companies may be rewarded for co-operating with investigations "have turned into a prescription for corporate self-indictment". Christopher Cox, who replaced Mr Donaldson as SEC chairman last year, has sought to defuse the controversy about the regulator's enforcement work by publishing guidelines on when it will impose fines. The report welcomes the guidelines, but says further changes may be necessary.

LOAD-DATE: March 10, 2006

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St. Cloud Times (Minnesota)

March 16, 2007 Friday

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 351 words

HEADLINE: Chamber gets 5-star rating

BYLINE: Dawn Peake dmpeake@stcloudtimes.com

BODY:

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce last week received an honor bestowed to only 29 chambers nationwide.

The local Chamber received a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for its policies, organizational procedures and positive impact on the community.

Ten chambers in Minnesota are accredited, but none has received a five-star rating.

"They are one of the top-run chambers in the country," said Raymond Towle, executive director of federation relations at the U.S. Chamber.

The U.S. Chamber started the accreditation program in 1964 and implemented the star rating five years ago.

To receive accreditation, chambers complete extensive self-reviews that show they meet minimum standards in their operations, including governance, government affairs and technology.

Chambers receive star ratings based on additional benchmarks. The accrediting board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members, provides the accreditation and star rating.

Ten percent of accredited chambers receive five stars — the highest rating.

"It's a real tribute to our business members and what they have been able to achieve as an association," said Teresa Bohnen, local Chamber president.

The local Chamber's role in the Science Initiative of Central Minnesota, government affairs program and printed and media materials stood out to the U.S. Chamber.

The St. Cloud Chamber also scored all the possible points in human resources, program development and facilities.

The national board recommended some improvements to the local Chamber's governance, technology, collection of late dues and disaster plan.

Only 298 of the almost 6,936 chambers nationwide have been accredited, according to the U.S. Chamber.

Not all chambers opt to participate.

It took the St. Cloud Chamber 18 months and \$17,000 worth of staff hours to complete the review, Bohnen said.

"It is a real process of learning," she said, noting some changes the Chamber made during the review. "There is a value in it."

On the Net

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: www.uschamber.com/chambers/accreditation.

Chamber gets 5-star rating St. Cloud Times (Minnesota) March 16, 2007 Friday

St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce: www.stcloudareachamber.com.

LOAD-DATE: March 17, 2007

3/12/07 L.A. Times 2
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Los Angeles Times
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March 12, 2007

Section: Business

U.S. chamber urges revamp of SEC, citing threat of competition
Group says oversight and other changes are needed to ensure the financial markets'
edge against foreign rivals.

Walter Hamilton
Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK Congress should revamp securities regulation, shield accounting firms from litigation and take other steps to bolster American financial competitiveness, according to a new report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Echoing other recent studies by business and political groups, the report to be released today by a chamber -appointed commission says that U.S. capital markets are threatened by rapidly maturing foreign rivals and that they must make significant changes to continue attracting foreign companies and investors.

"There have been great advantages to being the place where everybody brings their money, and we want to maintain those advantages," David Chavern, the chamber's chief operating officer, said in an interview.

Critics have generally dismissed such arguments, saying that business groups are trying to roll back investor-friendly reforms that were implemented after the corporate scandals of recent years.

Opponents point to factors such as record Wall Street profits to argue that the U.S. remains the world's financial capital.

Among the chamber's recommendations.

- * Congress should restructure the Securities and Exchange Commission and force regulators to consider potential costs to companies when writing new rules. An SEC spokesman could not be reached for comment.

- * Policymakers should take steps to protect large auditing firms from investor lawsuits and criminal prosecution to prevent the potential collapse of a sizable firm.

- * Public companies should stop issuing estimates of upcoming quarterly earnings. Critics say such guidance pressures companies to fudge accounting to satisfy Wall Street profit expectations and to forgo spending and research that could boost their long-term prospects.

* The SEC should study state and federal litigation to determine whether there is a "proper balance" between investor protection and capital formation.

* Congress should give the SEC the ability to adjust the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley law implemented after Enron Corp.'s debacle. Business groups have contended that certain provisions of the law are too costly, particularly to small companies.

The chamber will hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss its proposals.

The report also addresses employee-retirement issues and calls for the overhaul of corporate retirement plans to ensure that U.S. workers save enough.

All employees should be required to participate in 401(k)-style plans, their monetary contributions should be raised over time and the government should help small companies offer retirement plans, the report said.

Dennis Lynch, a 401(k) expert at Sentinel Pension Advisors in Wakefield, Mass., said many of the proposals were well-intended.

But others, such as allowing certain employers to shift regulatory fiduciary oversight of their plans to outside financial institutions, are "absolutely flawed" and appear aimed at freeing businesses from regulation, he said.

----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

COMPANY: INTERNORTH INC; NORTHERN NATURAL GAS CO; HNG INTERNORTH; ENRON CORP; SEC SOCIETE EUROPEENNE DE COMMUNICATION

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